Orangeburg Times.

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Coast Lands.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON COAST LANDS.

[PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.]
Concluded.
REPORT.

"*Character of Lands*—Known as marsh land in distinction from swamp lands."

"*Location*—Right or west bank of the Cape Fear, about fifteen miles below Wilmington, at head of brackish water."

"*Drainage*—not good, only two and a half feet fail, and somewhat subject to salts."

"*First Experiment—Season* 1866-67.—Ten acres were planted in white wheat in November, land had been lying out one year and ditches cleaned out. In May some slight trouble from birds. Necessary to keep them off for two or three days Crop marketed early, yield sixteen bushels of plump, well filled wheat per acre; no rust, average height of plant about four feet."

"*Second Experiment—Season* 1875-76—Two fields of ten acres each, condition as above, except that this crop was planted after rice had been cut and harvested, with ditches not cleaned out, and drainage consequently bad Yield ten bushels quality not as good as first experiment. Cause of small yield and inferior quality thought to be the planting of the wheat immediately after another crop, and bad drainage."

"*Third Experiment—Season* 1876-77.—Same fields as in second experiment; clay pea planted after crop was out; picked peas, turned under vines in November, and planted Fruitz's white wheat broadcast. Yield fourteen bushels; sold in Wilmington, where it was milled, for $1.82½ per bushel; first wheat in market; quotation in wheat market at that time $1.62½. Flour from the crop of [illegible] quality."

"The above experiments were by Cal. ——. In none of them did rust attack the wheat which always matured well, and was good in quality. Trouble from birds only slight."

"A neighbor of Col. —— has experimented two successive seasons, with like conditions and very similar results, only planting five acres however. These gentlemen are having their land analyzed, to discover what is needed to increase the yield"

GRASS CULTURE.

"Same quality of land and on neighboring plantations; seed, [illegible] red top and clover mixed Yield [illegible] five tons of most excellent hay, selling readily in the Wilmington market. Two cuttings each season; three to three and a half tons from first, about one to one and one half ton from second. No trouble from weeds; reseeding necessary after every fourth year."

"Dry culture is necessary on the Cape Fear as the negroes will not work in the rice crop and its planting has been generally abandoned."

The cheapness of wheat culture as compared with that of rice, (because wheat requires no work from the time it is sown until harvest, and because of the largely greater acreage which may be cultivated to the hand and plough,) and the comparative value of the two grains, are facts which make Mr. Holmes report very important to our rice planters. The ash element is probably the manure these gentlemen of the Cape Fear River seek in order to raise the production of wheat on their lands from fourteen and [illegible] figure which will [illegible] somely their industry and enterprise. We shall soon see whether this is so.

And as to grasses, the substitution of Bermuda or Timothy, red top and clover with the use of ash element and the introduction of the vetch into their cultivation, may give them established meadows, and supersede the necessity of seeding their land every fourth year.

These experiments on the Cape Fear indicate the solution of the question of labor in our swamp lands, by far more difficult than on out uplands. For, if wheat can be grown on our rice lands, producing abundant crops, with machinery to sow it in November and also to reap it in May and June, white labor can cultivate them.

Dr. Ravenel has suggested to your committee the "*Rebel Pea*" as superior to any other veriety known to him thus far as a fertilizer. It possesses the following qualities: It has a strong tap root penetrating eighteen inches into the ground, which, when it dies in the autumn, loosens the soil and makes it mellow. It is a vigrous grower, covers the ground with its foliage, shading and protecting it thoroughly against the action of the sun.

It continues green and vigorous until killed by frost Its seed remains in the ground from autumn to spring without injury, and may therefore be sown with small grain, wheat, oats, &c., in the autumn—possibly it may seed itself.

Its seed is small, and a given quantity will, therefore, plant larger area of land than other varieties.

This valuable pea is at present rare, and as far as known can be had only in Orangeburg County.

Your committee respectfully recommend that the society shall procure a few bushels of the seed with a view to its preservation, and to be used by such farmers and planters as will experiment under your auspices in the cultivation of the small grains.

The Tory pea is said to possess very much the same qualities with the Rebel, but Dr. Ravenel does not know whether this is so

A letter from Dr. Ravenel to your committee is herewith submitted It will be read with interest by agriculturists whose tastes have led them to look into the mysteries of their occupation. To such, perhaps, it will suggest ideas and methods somewhat different from those which have descended to them, and with which they have worked thus far. Perhaps it may raise up among themselves pioneers in the march of agricultural improvement. May it be so

All which is respectfully submitted,
ROBERT N. GOURDIN,
Chairman of Com. on Coast Lands.
Charleston, 22d March, 1878.

LETTER OF DR. RAVENEL.
EAST BATTERY, February 11, 1878.
R. N. Gourdin, Esq. Chairman, &c.:

DEAR SIR—Your committee has, in another paper, presented a sad but truthfult picture of the condition of the low country.

Small crops and an exhausted soil have been the result of the system of planting generally pursued, while the necessities of an increasing population imperatively demand large crops and an improving soil.

Climate alone determines the productions of the country. That ours is favorable to the growth of wheat, oats, corn, cotton, rice, grass, potatoes, turnips, cabbages, &c., &c., we know; for when planted in good soil in proper physical condition, they all yield plentiful crops.

To enrich the soil then at moderate cost is the one thing needful, and the following considerations lead to the belief that this may be accomplished:

1st. When a wheat of wheat weighing one hundred ounces is carefully burned, ninety-five ounces disappear, five ounces remain as ashes. The gaseous matter gone off consists of the elements of air and water, the ashes [illegible] mineral matter existing in [illegible]

[illegible] material of which plants are composed is superabundant, while the five per cent. of mineral matter needed is cheaper in Charleston than any where on the globe.

Heat and sunlight supply the force by which the germ or seed works this material into the mature plant.

Our geographical position secures us ample rainfall equally distributed through all the months of the year, bright sunlight, a winter temperture high enough for the growth of important crops, a summer heat not too great for the full development of semi-tropical plants, secure us, in effect, two seed times and two harvests in one year.

2d. As among animals, some feed on grass, and others require more highly organized matter for their nourishment, so among plants, some form their substance from the air, water and mineral matter of the soil directly, while others cannot do so, but live upon the remains of a vegetation which has previously flourished and decayed upon the land. For example, a sheep confined to a good pasture thrives, a dog under the same circumstances starves. The grass must be converted into mutton before it can support the dog.

Wheat will not grow upon poor land supplied merely with mineral matter, but pea vines will, and when these have decayed upon the land wheat will flourish there.

Here the leguminous plant does for the graminaceous one, what the herbivorous animal does for the carnivorous.

We have many leguminous plants, some of which grow from spring to fall, others from fall to spring. By supplying the necessary mineral matter, and using those plants which grow during the summer to prepare food for small grain, and those that grow during the winter to do the same for grass, there is good reason to hope that the coast lands may be made to produce remunerative crops, and those of a kind which are sowed and reaped by the efficient labor saving machines of the day.

To test the plan above stated, the following experiments were made at the farm of the Atlantic and Stono Phosphate Companies near Charleston.

In the month of June, ordinary sandy land, which had been supplied with the requisite quantity of mineral matter, was sown broadcast with cow peas. When the peas were nearly ripe a measured quantity of the land was mown and the vines dried. The dried vines were at the rate of 4,000 lbs. to the acre and were proved by analysis to contain nitrogenous matter capable of producing 2½ per cent. of ammonia, and 19 per cent. of mineral matter or ashes.

To determine whether it were necessary to turn in the green vines, (always a difficult and troublesome operation,) some of the dried vines were washed on a filter with water, the water tested and found to contain all the valuable constituents of the vine; showing that no loss of fertilizing material had been occasioned by the plant dying on the surface of the land, and proving the turning in, which has greatly prevented the general adoption of this mode of fertilizing, to be necessary.

Therefore, upon the remainder of the land the vines were allowed to die upon the surface, and in November oats and wheat were planted upon it. Both grew vigorously and produced more than double the crops ordinarily obtained in this part of the country.

In the succeeding June about 500 pounds of ash element to the acre were spread on the stubble to supply the mineral matter removed by the previous crop, the land ploughed and planted with peas, and in November wheat and oats were sown.

The crops now growing look better than those of last year at this season, leading to the hope that the process is a cumulative one, tending to improve rather than to exhaust the land.

The continuous use of the pea as a fertilizer has not proved satisfactory where a liberal supply of mineral matter has been omitted

Very truly yours,
ST. JULIEN RAVENEL.

Made of sweet work—shoes.

Stick-up people—glue makes

A business that is always behind hand—Card playing.

A Meeting.

The Orangeburg Agricultural Society held its third meeting on Saturday last at Fair Building, Dr. W. F. Barton, President, presiding and Mr. Kirk Robinson, Secretary. After the usual opening business was acted upon, the President proceeded to call for individual reports of the amount planted and present promise of the cotton crop. Every member responded, and from a summary of all the reports it may safely be stated that this crop will yeild in the fall about the same crop as the last.

Reports of the oat crop was next called and the members, with few exceptions, gave most flattering and encouraging accounts of the present crop. Many had planted double the quantity of last year's planting and in better land; others reported one-third more, while none planted less. This speaks well for our farmers and they will find to their great satisfaction that there will be bread enough and to spare; that a spirit of independence will be enjoyed scarcely dreamed of heretofore; and that an advance will be made in money yielding crops which will give prosperity to the entire County. Some interesting and very instructive information was gathered in this connection concerning the raising of oats by the use of the pea as a manure It was generally agreed that the cow pea, of our ordinary varieties, was the best to precede oats. By sowing this pea in the spring, at the rate of from one to two bushels per acre and plowing them under previous to planting oats in the fall, double the yield of the crop was obtained. Indeed. Mr. W. A. Mackey said, three years ago he planted a peice of land in oats that yielded a crop so trifling, it was scarcely worth the trouble of gathering. The next spring he planted peas on the land and turned them under, and planted oats which gave a satisfactory crop. He again planted the peas and turned them in, and planted his oats. Now there is not an inch of the land that has not a splendid crop of oats. He also advanced the belief that common salt and ashes would prevent rust in wheat.

It was said that Dr Ravenel recommended the Rebel pea as the best variety for manureal purposes from the fact that they produced more vine and roots than any other variety.

Mr. Muller said he believed one variety of wheat, the George Grange Rust Proof Wheat, which he planted was indeed a rust proof wheat, this was attested by planting two other varieties in the same field and in close proximity, both of which rusted badly. All the seed of this wheat are engaged already by parties for next planting.

The President recommended an experiment to the members as worth trying on wheat and oats. Plant during the spring two bushels of cow peas per acre and use 500 pounds of the ash element During the fall months plow the crop under, and plant wheat or oats. Most satisfactory results had been obtained by this process in other localities and he believed the same effect would follow the trial here. He also stated, on the authority of Mr. Dannelly in the Fork, that steeping wheat in sulphur would prevent rust.

Mr. Wannamaker asked to be informed whether twenty bushels of dead cotton seed was worth as much as the same quantity of live seed for manure? In answer to this request it was generally agreed, the live seed was the better Dr. J. C. Holman believed that seed with the oil expressed, was as good as live seed; that ammonia escaped from the dead seed through the processes of fermentation and the oil remained, which was perfectly worthless as plant food.

Mr M. J. Keller asserted that he would rather give 20 cents per bushel for live seed, than 15 cents, for dead seed. In this connection it was thought that dead seed lost one forth its value at least.

Mr. Mackey obtained the best results by putting his cotton seed in the stables as he hauled them from the gin and allowing horses to trample on them till needed for manure.

Dr. W. F. Barton's plan for using cotton seed and stable manure is the following:

For corn, use 12 bushels of cotton seed and 100 pounds of acid phosphate, mixed.

For cotton, use the same quantity of stable manure and dissolved bone, mixed.

Dr. Bowman and Mr. J. J. Salley make a compose heap of one layer of stable manure a foot deep and one of cotton seed the same, alternating until the heap be large enough, closed with stable manure. Twenty bushels of this mixture per acre gave 25 bushels of corn per acre.

Prof. Bibikov advises the use of stable manure alone; cotton seed should be used mixed with lime, marl is better, which cause the seed to give out ammonia and then absorbs it again. Lime may be scattered over a field where stable manure had been use, for the same purpose. The prof. had on exhibition three tea plants and a few of the opium poppy which he recommends to our people as a step towards independence as well as profit.

There being no further busness the meeting adjourned to the upper room where an equal feast was in waiting for the body. Farmers are experts in getting up such things and *in getting them down* as well. Wine, excellent wine from the vintage of the President was a part of the programme—every practical, successful farmer ought to be a fat man. After the eating and the drinking was over, Mr. Hugo G. Sheridan was sprung for a speech. Further the editor deposes not.

The Man with a small Appetite.

A man with an appetite like a poor relation and a relentless and untiring pair of jaws struck the Indiana House at noontime the other day and kept three girls and three men busy for one hour trying to outrun the capacity of his stomach. He went through the bill of fare like measles in a district school, and emptied every thing on the table except the salt mug and castor. He sampled all the meats till the carver struck for higher wages, heaped a barricade of fish bones around his plate, and made the vegetables fly like a simoon in a hurry. Old man Ryman leaned against the wall and watched him with a stunned, dazed sort of feeling, and the undefined and inexplicable dread that comes over a man when the hard earnings of years are in danger of being swept ruthlessly away. For a time he had serious thoughts of emptying a paper of tacks into the pudding, but thought better of it, and remarked to Jim:

"No it wouldn't do; he might throw the funeral expenses on to me, and I guess I'd better fill him up if it brings us all to want. But mark him well, James. Take a look that will last a life-time, and never let that man get on the inside of the house again. If he wants to stay for supper, tell him we shall close up and all go fishing this afternoon, and won't get back until fall after next."

But the stranger gave no heed to the consternation he had scattered, and kept his mouth full and the waiter puffing and blowing. He charged upon everything catable as long as he could taste, and then dropped his knife and fork, filled his pocket with apples, oranges, biscuit, eggs and fried chicken, and walked out with the air of a man who had gratified a grudge of long standing.

He complained in the office that he was not feeling well, but hoped to be all right as soon as he could coax up a little appetite and eat something.—*Breakfast Table.*

The people of Searsport, Me., were surprised and amused at a spelling bee by a tall tramp spelling down the entire assembly.